GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1106
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
CULTURAL CENTRES ABROAD
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom India has cultural relationship as on date;

(b) the details of cultural programmes organized in other countries during the past three years and current year;

(c) the funds allocated, expenditures incurred on such programmes during the above period;

(d) the number of Indian cultural centres set up in other countries or abroad; and

(e) the existing monitoring mechanism in place in the Ministry to monitor/evaluate the functioning of such cultural centres?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) The Govt. of India seeks to maintain good and friendly relations with all nations. The Council on its part does endeavor to improve cultural ties with friendly nations by formulating and implementing policies pertaining to India's external cultural relations. The Council fosters cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries through promotion of cultural exchanges with them.

(b) Details of programmes organized abroad by the ICCR during the last three years and the current year are given below:

Year	No. of programmes organized abroad
2006-07	97
2007-08	90
2008-09	116
2009-10	96

(c) The year-wise summary of funds allocated and expenditure incurred in this regard is given below:

Year	Budget Allocation	Expenditure Incurred
2006-07	Rs.8.00 crore	Rs.10.53 crore
2007-08	Rs.7.00 crore	Rs.7.54 crore
2008-09	Rs.7.45 crore	Rs.7.81 crore
2009-10	Rs.16.00crore	Rs.6.30 crore Till date

(d) Twenty-four Cultural Centres are currently maintained by ICCR (List of the Centres enclosed at Annexure-(A).

(e) & (f) The performance of the Centres is monitored on a regular basis through an institutionalized system of monthly reporting by these Centres. These reports are carefully scrutinized at the Council. These Centres function as an integral part of Indian Missions abroad and their activities are also continuously monitored by our Heads of Mission in the countries concerned.

The principal objective of this ongoing process of monitoring and review is to seek a continuous up-gradation in the quality, content and reach of the activities of the Cultural Centres. The activities of the Cultural Centres have resulted in a significant expansion of India's cultural outreach overseas.